

In Memoriam

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[← Home](#)**Deceased Name:** Jr., Robert L. (U) Knight**Notification:**

Robert L. Knight Jr. of Bealton, Virginia, passed away on 2 October 2007 from injuries incurred in an accident earlier that day while riding his motorcycle to work.

Bob was born in Charleston, South Carolina, and was raised in Florida and Louisiana. After graduating from the Citadel in 1975, he served as an officer in the Marine Corps for four years. He joined the CIA in 1980, where his first assignment was with the Foreign Broadcast Information Service. He subsequently worked as a watch officer in the Operations Center, and as an analyst in the Office of Imagery Analysis, the Office of Leadership Analysis, and the Office of Asian Pacific, Latin American, and African Analysis, where he covered leadership issues of the Andean countries.

Bob joined the Office of Information Management Services in 2004, where he served on the staff of the Director's Area Information Review Officer. Working in close collaboration with the National Intelligence Council, over the next three years Bob was directly responsible for the declassification of three major historical collections of national estimative reports dealing with China, the Vietnam War, and Yugoslavia. Shortly before his death he had been selected to manage the Agency's declassification effort in support of the State Department's Foreign Relations of the United States series.

Bob was beloved by all who had the good fortune to work with him over the years. A dedicated and patient mentor, he willingly made time to share his expertise and experience, guiding and assisting the development of numerous junior officers. He will be deeply missed.

Bob leaves his wife, Ann, two sons, Brian of Bealton, VA, and Travis of Bealton, VA; his parents, Robert L. Sr., and Norma Knight of Hanahan, SC; his brother, Bruce E. Knight of Goose Creek, SC, and a sister, Rebekah V. Davis, also of Hanahan, SC.

Bob's co-workers provided the following recollections:

Bob joined the office of Leadership Analysis in 1995, introducing hunting season, homemade beef jerky, and military stories to the office. Probably the only person in the DI to successfully use "rope-a-dope" in finished intelligence, he particularly loved unraveling the mysteries of Latin America's most colorful leaders, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] After a several year stint as a Watch Officer in NMJIC (1997-1999), Bob joined the [REDACTED] Issue Group where he served as both a leadership and a political analyst on some of the regions busiest accounts. Bob was a skilled writer and briefer, a patient, thoughtful mentor to many and a friend to all during his nearly five years in the Issue Group. Fun to work with, Bob had a knack for striking the right balance between commitment to mission, his wife and children, and the

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great outdoors.

I've thought often about Bob since his tragic passing. I worked with Bob after 9/11, when we both wound up in the same branch in CTC. Bob kept me laughing with his grumbling about how every terrorist appeared to have some variation of the same name. Bob's fate seemed to be to work furiously on a report about some bad guy, only to have him turn up ours de combat. Bob kept our morale up by taking me down to his shooting range to blast targets with his huge buffalo rifles. He even talked me into expanding my own gun cabinet with a sweet Winchester in the cowboy caliber, and my slogan for him became, "Bob Knight: Arming America One Man at a Time."

During the late 1990s, Bob and I went TDY to a few Latin American countries where he gladly said that he would serve as my protector and bodyguard and I could serve as his translator. Our TDY went smoothly of course with this wonderful arrangement, and he was a joy to travel with. One of the more memorable thoughts I have of Bob, in addition to his wonderful sense of humor and ease in working with him, was when our entire office in leadership went out for a buffet luncheon. I recall so vividly Bob's philosophy of buffets that he shared with me that, "one needs to eat enough to make them lose money." This has been one of my favorite sayings ever since this occasion, and I have tried to live by Bob's buffet rule ever since.

Bob was born in Charleston -- his family moved to FLA and then New Orleans where his Dad entered the seminary for a time...they then moved back to Charleston for Bob to go to college. He graduated from the Citadel (1975?), married Ann then joined the Marines. After serving four years as an XO of a 155 mm artillery battery and an aerial observer in an OV-10 aircraft, he joined the Agency (1980) and began with FBIS. Around 1980-81 he joined my watch team in the then-DI Operations Center as a junior analyst...I was the senior watch officer and he was responsible for the USSR, Eastern and Western Europe. He then transferred to OIA. Following the disbanding of OIA, he moved over to LDA and then APLAA to cover Andean countries' leadership. {Bob was known for his} addictions to marksmanship, hunting and Harley riding.

Bob Knight became part of the Agency's declassification effort in early 2004 when he joined the DCI Information Review Officer's team as Associate Information Review Officer. He quickly caught onto the arcane declassification business and became an indispensable member of the small team putting out high profile collections of estimative products on various parts of the world (Henry Kissinger was at the debut of one collection). As project manager for the collections, Bob provided quality control for those reviewing and declassifying the documents and for coordinating the declassification team's work with the National Intelligence Council. Policy prevents the names of serving Agency officers from appearing on public documents or his would have figured as prominently as anyone's in the credits in the front of the collections published during his three years with the DCI area team. As one of his colleagues said, "Bob was incapable of doing anything but the most professional job" and while work on the collections continues, their production will never be as easy and the end product will never quite sparkle as when Bob was in charge.

This is not to say that all was sweetness and light between Bob and others in the IRO branch. Bob took such delight in telling--and retelling--the gory details of his wild boar hunt that he was oblivious to the distress of the more sensitive of his colleagues, and Bob's attraction to Cracker Barrel restaurants remains a mystery. For his part, Bob handled with equanimity his day-to-day dealings with several team members who easily qualify as "grumpy old men." He also patiently

endured un-Marine-like celebrations of birthdays, "talk like a pirate" day, spotted ear mite week, potato day and the like, going so far to hide his distain as to play kazoos and wear silly hats. Bob once admitted he had never respected and enjoyed working with a group as much as he did the IRO shop, and his work mates enjoyed and admired him just as much.

Viewing, Memorial, and Funeral Arrangements:

A viewing was held for family and friends on 9 October at the Moser Funeral Home in Warrenton, VA. Graveside services, with honors provided by the United States Marine Corps, was held on 10 October at the Quantico National Cemetery, Triangle, VA.

Flowers and Contributions:

Memorials may be made to: American Diabetes Association, 1025 Connecticut Avenue, Suite 1005, Washington, DC 20036.

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